



# COAL OPERATOR MINING FACTS – 2007

## Mining Operations

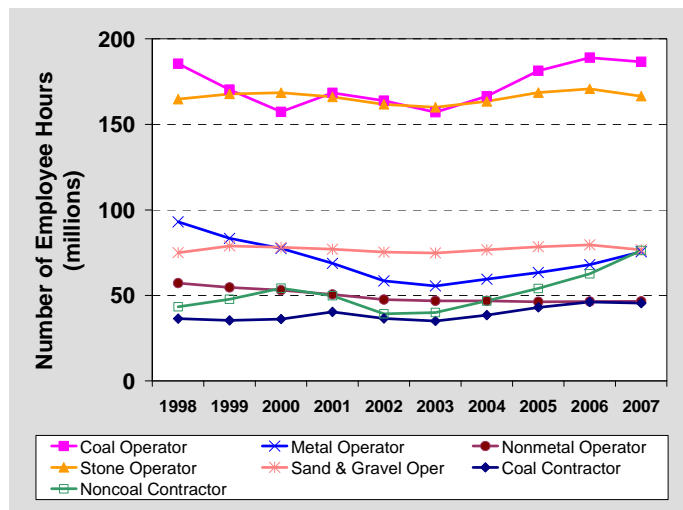
In 2007, a total of 2,030 coal mining operations reported employment to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).<sup>1</sup> Coal mines comprised 13.7% of all mining operations.

- Bituminous mines comprised 92.4% (n=1,875) and anthracite mines 7.6% (n=155) of coal mining operations.
- Approximately 72% of all coal mines were located in three states: Kentucky (28.4%), West Virginia (22.6%), and Pennsylvania (20.5%).

## Employees

A total of 84,071 employees,<sup>2</sup> corresponding to 93,265 full-time equivalent (FTE)<sup>3</sup> employees, were reported by coal mine operators to MSHA.

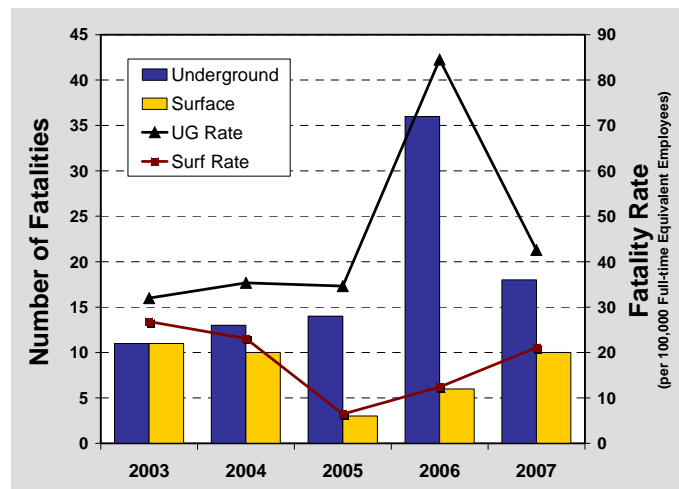
- Within the mining sectors,<sup>4</sup> coal operators comprised 27.7% of all employee hours reported.
- Underground work locations accounted for 45.3% of employee hours, while surface work locations accounted for 54.7%.<sup>5</sup>



## Fatalities

Twenty-eight (28) occupational fatalities occurred among coal operator employees in 2007, compared to 42 in 2006.

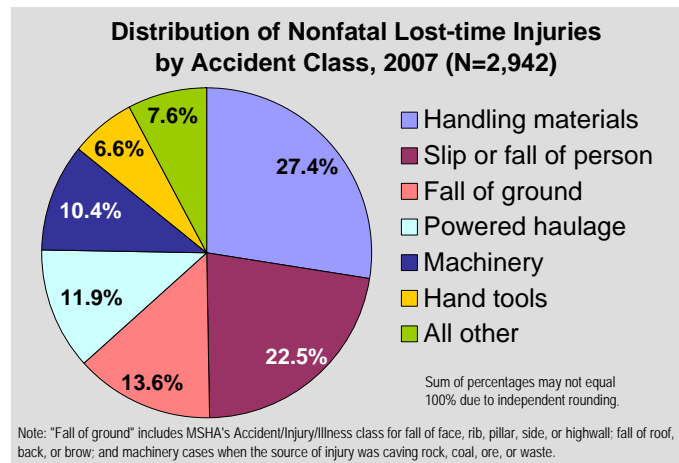
- Fatalities among coal operator employees accounted for 41.8% of all mining fatalities.
- The coal operator fatality rate was 31.2 fatalities per 100,000 FTE employees. The underground fatality rate was 42.6 (n=18) compared to a rate of 21.1 (n=10) for surface work locations.



## Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 2,942 nonfatal lost-time injuries (2,120 at underground and 822 at surface work locations) among coal operator employees occurring at an overall rate of 3.3 injuries per 100 FTE employees. These injuries resulted in 192,129 days lost from work,<sup>6</sup> comprising 45.1% of days lost across all mining sectors.

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (5.0 vs. 1.7 per 100 FTE workers).
- The most frequent classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries for coal operator employees involved handling materials (n=805; 27.4%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=1,237; 42.0%).
- The back was the most frequently reported body part injured (n=524; 17.8%) and accounted for 34,799 days lost from work.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

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# Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2007

Commodity and Type of Employer	Number of Mining Operations <sup>1</sup>			Number of Employees <sup>2</sup>			Number of FTE Employees <sup>3</sup>		
	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total
Coal Operator	631	1,399	2,030	37,829	46,242	84,071	42,238	51,027	93,265
Metal Operator	97	181	278	5,333	30,667	36,000	5,437	32,309	37,746
Nonmetal Operator	48	677	725	2,411	20,453	22,864	2,478	20,788	23,265
Stone Operator	113	4,526	4,639	1,845	80,873	82,718	2,063	81,191	83,254
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	7,199	7,199	NA	45,761	45,761	NA	38,340	38,340
<b>Operator Total</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>13,982</b>	<b>14,871</b>	<b>47,418</b>	<b>223,996</b>	<b>271,414</b>	<b>52,216</b>	<b>223,655</b>	<b>275,871</b>
	<b>Number of Companies</b>								
Coal Contractor	NA	NA	2,999	5,160	33,705	38,865	3,071	19,670	22,741
Noncoal Contractor	NA	NA	5,400	3,039	64,805	67,844	1,935	36,216	38,151
<b>Contractor Total</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>8,399</b>	<b>8,199</b>	<b>98,510</b>	<b>106,709</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>55,886</b>	<b>60,892</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>55,617</b>	<b>322,506</b>	<b>378,123</b>	<b>57,222</b>	<b>279,541</b>	<b>336,763</b>

## Mining Occupational Fatalities and Injuries, 2007

Commodity and Type of Employer	Occupational Fatalities (per 100,000 FTE employees)						Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries (per 100 FTE employees)					
	Underground		Surface		Total		Underground		Surface		Total	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Coal Operator	18	42.6	10	21.1	28	31.2	2,120	5.0	822	1.7	2,942	3.3
Metal Operator	3	55.2	4	14.4	7	21.1	178	3.3	620	2.2	798	2.4
Nonmetal Operator	1	40.4	0	0.0	1	5.0	91	3.7	417	2.4	508	2.5
Stone Operator	0	0.0	8	11.4	8	11.1	36	1.7	1,844	2.6	1,880	2.6
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	NA	5	15.0	5	15.0	NA	NA	657	2.0	657	2.0
<b>Operator Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>6,785</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Coal Contractor	3	97.7	3	16.3	6	28.0	177	5.8	283	1.5	460	2.1
Noncoal Contractor	2	103.4	10	29.3	12	33.3	43	2.2	454	1.3	497	1.4
<b>Contractor Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5,097</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7,742</b>	<b>2.5</b>

NA Not applicable.

**Data source:** Publicly released data files of employment and accident/injury/illness collected by MSHA under 30 CFR 50.

**Notes:** All analyses of accident data exclude office employees. Occupational fatalities exclude all cases under 17 years of age. Further statistical methodology is available on the NIOSH Internet [<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/statistics/method.htm>]. Data in the above tables may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding. Caution should be used when interpreting rates based on a small number of events.

<sup>1</sup>Mines at which only independent contractors were working did not show any employment and were not counted.

<sup>2</sup>Average number of employees working at individual mines during calendar quarters of active operations (includes office workers).

<sup>3</sup>Full-time equivalent employees computed using reported employee hours (2,000 hours = 1 FTE).

<sup>4</sup>Mining sectors include coal operators, metal operators, nonmetal operators, stone operators, sand and gravel operators, coal contractors, and noncoal contractors.

<sup>5</sup>Surface work locations include surface operations at underground mines, surface operations (strip or open pit), auger, culm banks, dredge, independent shops and yards, and mills or preparation plants.

<sup>6</sup>Includes actual days away from work and/or days of restricted work activity. For permanently disabling injuries only, statutory days charged by MSHA were used if they exceeded the total lost workdays.

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